



22 February 2021

Dear Families

Welcome to what I expect will be a busy and productive term in the lead up to the Easter break.

I'd firstly like to thank you for your on-going support with online learning during term 3. We are incredibly proud of the engagement and contributions made by our pupils throughout the term. Across the whole term engagement to on-line learning ran significantly above 90%, due I'm in no doubt to your constant encouragement and insistence that your son/daughters attended and engaged. It seems that online learning for term 4 may not be for a significant length of time, but could I please encourage you to continue to positively encourage your son/daughter's engagement, for as long as is required.

As I hinted at above, it looks likely that a return to school will occur in term 4. Once we have fully assessed any announcements I will write to confirm how we will undertake this process in a safe and timely manner. In the meantime could I please ask that you take the next two weeks to ensure that you son/daughter is prepared for on-site learning. We worked incredibly hard during terms 1 and 2 to ensure the culture in the school allows your child to make the best progress possible. To continue this work, please support us by ensuring your son/daughter has a full uniform available for the return to school and is fully equipped for in-school learning. Our pupil's positive attitude on their return to school in September was exemplary and due I'm sure, to your encouragement and support. We would love to pick up this attitude in our return in term 4, so it would be hugely appreciated if you discussed the importance of engagement and hard work on their return.

Lastly, you may be aware that this Friday we had originally scheduled a whole staff training day, with the school to be closed to pupils. I have taken the decision to postpone this training day for later in the school year and **our school day will run as normal on Friday 26 February**. I apologise for making this decision, but have taken this due to the implication of staff having to award grades for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, following the announcement that they would not sit exams in 2021. The work involved in setting these grades is significant and as of today we do not yet know how this will be conducted. Moving Friday's inset day to later in the year will allow our staff body a block of time in which we can complete this process with the consideration it deserves.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please be assured that I will write to you again by the end of this week with an outline of our re-opening plan.

Yours sincerely



Sebastian St John
Head of School